

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	USSR (Estonian SSR)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Port of Tallinn	DATE DISTR.	7 August 1953
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The port of Tallinn is being used by the Soviets as a Soviet fleet base, at least administratively so. Estonians feel that Tallinn is gradually acquiring the role of an important Soviet naval base. There are very many Soviet naval officers and enlisted men living in Tallinn with their families, and they appear to be there permanently. In May 1953, four large Soviet ships lay in the roadstead of Tallinn; these ships appeared to be about the same size and at least as long as the SVERDLOV. There are usually six to ten submarines in the harbor. Some MTBs and a smaller type of warship have also been observed in the harbor.

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2. Other foreign vessels go to Riga. Only the "New Basin" (Uus Sadam), or eastern basin, in the main harbor is used for merchant ships.

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3. The Tallinn Main Harbor, with the exception of the "New Basin" (Uus Sadam), marked No. 1 on the sketch on page 3, is reserved for the Soviet Navy.

4. Formerly, the entrance to the harbor from the town was free, and one could enter it from any point. Now, however, it is restricted, and there are only three gates, erected at the places marked No. 2, No. 3, and No. 4 on the sketch on page 3. This restriction was introduced in 1952 when all parts of the harbor were closed, and entry could be gained only by special passes.

5. No new buildings were erected in the harbor area. Warehouses, formerly belonging to private forwarding and transport firms on Holland Street, are now used as naval stores.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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-2-

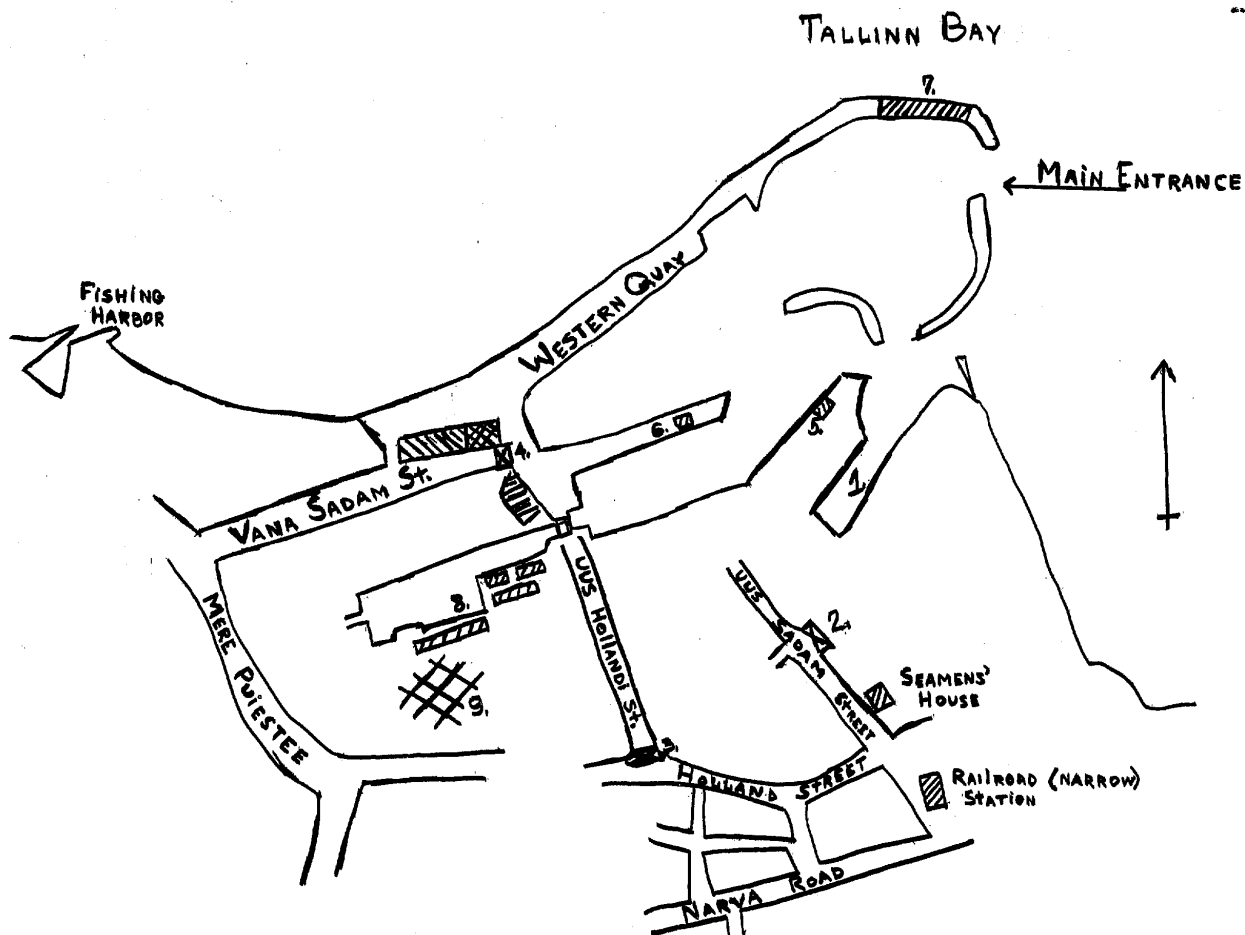
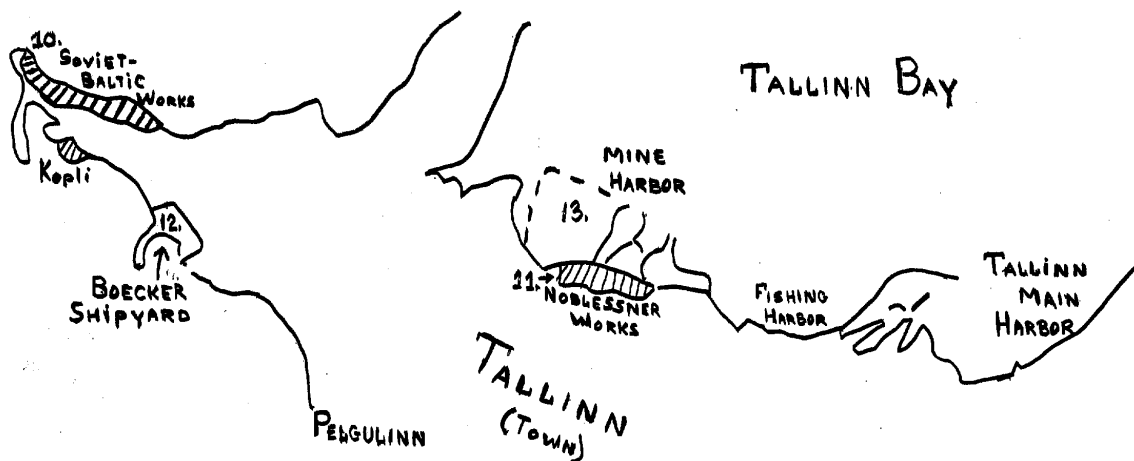
6. The big silo, at No. 5 on the sketch on page 3, was destroyed during the war, and has not been restored. The Harbor Railway Terminus Station, marked No. 6 on the sketch on page 3, no longer exists.
7. It appears that Tallinn, as a naval base, is used mostly for the repair and refitting of warships, and as a Naval headquarters.
8. The following docks and shipyards are used extensively by the Soviet Navy:
 - a. The drydock in the Main Harbor, at No. 7 on the sketch on page 3, is in working order.
 - b. The former State Harbor Workshops, marked No. 8 on the sketch, are in working order.
 - c. New workshops and warehouses have been built along the small canal up to Mere Pulestee, in the area marked No. 9 on the sketch.
 - d. The Soviet-Baltic Shipyard in Kopli, marked No. 10 on Sketch 2, has new machinery and has been put into full operation; this shipyard was idle for years before the war. There is said to be a floating drydock and three floating cranes at the yard. According to rumors, there are three keels laid down for new ships, although the type and size of these ships are unknown. Two MTBs are reported to have been built by this yard recently.
 - e. The former Noblessner (or Noblesner) Shipyard, marked No. 11 on Sketch 2, which did not work to full capacity before the war, is now fully active working for the Soviet Navy..
 - f. The Boecker (or Boeker) Shipyard, marked No. 12 on Sketch 2, is also in commission. Extensive dredging has been observed.
 - g. The Mine Harbor, marked No. 13 on Sketch 2, which was formerly the harbor for Estonian warships, is now in the hands of the Soviet Navy.

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-3-

Sketch No. 1TALLINN MAIN HARBORSketch No. 2MINE HARBOR~~Secret/Control~~